



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FORMER EL PASO CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OFFICER
SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON ON BRIBERY CHARGE**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 43-year-old Gerardo Diaz, a former Bureau of Customs and Border Protection officer in El Paso, was sentenced earlier today to 100 months in federal prison for accepting a bribe to allow cocaine to enter the United States through his Port of Entry lane.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge David Briones ordered that Diaz pay \$7,000 restitution and be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term.

“Mr. Diaz betrayed his fellow officers and the people of West Texas by not only failing to protect the border, but by actually joining with the dope runners against whom we are fighting daily,” stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

On December 20, 2005, Diaz pled guilty to one count of bribery. By his guilty plea, Diaz admitted that he accepted a \$15,000 bribe to allow five kilograms of cocaine to be smuggled into the United States from the Republic of Mexico without inspection at the Ysleta Port of Entry on or about June 11, 2004.

This case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security - Office of Inspector General, Federal Bureau of Investigation and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement - Office of Investigations. Assistant United States Attorneys Brandy Gardes and William Lewis are prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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